

**Shannon Bendtsen (Linch)**  
**Systems Control Engineer**  
**Genesis Alkali**  
**Green River, Wyoming**

**Biography:** Shannon Bendtsen (Linch) is from Riverton, Wyoming where her STEM journey began at Central Wyoming College and led her to a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Wyoming. A chance encounter with her former CWC professor, Dr. Bill Finny, inspired me to join him in advocating for women in STEM. Also, attending the Riverton Women in STEM day when she was in high school was a blast, so she wanted to pay it forward.

As a first-generation low-income college student, Shannon was initially hesitant about pursuing engineering, but Wyoming's awesome programs, like TRIO and the McNair Scholars, guided her all the way.

Today, Shannon is a Systems Control Engineer at Genesis Alkali in Green River, Wyoming. Basically, she programs computers to run a processing plant and handle data. She had no problem finding job opportunities with her degree – that's one of the best things about a STEM career! She loves her work because it lets her program in her own style, collaborate with her team, and solve challenging problems. Shannon didn't know about Wyoming's soda ash industry until late in college, but now she's excited to be working in a field with such great opportunities. If you're interested in soda ash mining or Shannon's engineering journey, come chat with her at her Career Exploration Display!

**Workshop:** *Self Driving Car* - In this workshop, Shannon has partnered with Western Wyoming College's Engineer's Club to build a self-driving RC car. We'll explore how a PID (Proportional Integral Derivative) controller works and learn how to tune it for optimal performance. Get ready to optimize your car and watch it reach its destination!

